

The Level of Using Technology for Pre-Graduate Students While Preparing Assignments

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Abstract: The aim of this study is to determine the level of using technology of Pre-Graduate students likewise internet and other basic technology resources while they are preparing their assignments. The centre of the research is Pre-Graduate students of AICUNI (Ağrı İbrahim Çeçen University), Vocational Training School of Ağrı.

Students have opportunities of accessing some other resources different from books and papers with the help of developing informative technologies finding their way through educational settings. Contrary to traditional teaching/learning methods, developing technologies, especially educational technologies, make it unavoidable for students to use them while preparing assignments. While evaluated as information resources, technologies such as internet and TV undoubtedly provide great convenience to students for their individual studying. However there exist some obstacles in the technology use for students such as access to technology, know-how of tools, anxiety level etc.

With the questionnaires that are applied to our students of Pre-Graduate students of AICUNI (Ağrı İbrahim Çeçen University), Vocational Training School of Ağrı we tried to determine the level of using technologies while they are preparing assignments.

Determining their level of using technology will be useful for teachers and lecturers to understand students' tendencies about internet and other technological resources as educational materials.

Key Words: Pre-Graduate, technology, assignment, internet, educational technologies.

Introduction

Technology, which literary means “applying knowledge to process in industry systematically”, broadly is a collection of knowledge and abilities to actualize effective and productive process that covers research, development, production, marketing, selling, service during post-selling period. Technological innovation is defined as “innovation in production processes, new productions and new types of institutional organizations”. On the other hand, there are industry branches that are “science and technology oriented” sectors such as particularly electronic, energy, informatics, space, bio-engineering, organic chemistry and defence industry that is intersection of these sectors and brings the highest amount value added tax consequently contributes to social welfare at the highest level. Using technology has become compulsory to get success in many fields now. Technological opportunities and devices have been started to be used, in recent years, especially in education fields densely and new teaching approaches have been started to be built considering education outputs.

As a result of common technical infrastructure in classes and buildings of schools using technology has become one of the standards in all levels from primary to higher education. Access to mass media, on-line libraries, internet and computer, digital databases and other technology based information sources has caused a decrease regarding access to written and published sources. Accessibility, broadness and richness in terms of content, time and financial savings are seen as positive aspects that support using technology.

Due to the high rate of unemployment, problems in the field of employment, increased numbers of qualified staffs because of the high standard in education consequently there is a competition atmosphere that

always aims better standards. In order to be different from others under such an atmosphere, receive good education has gained importance. In parallel with these facts, big steps taken in education field educational statistics have reached a level that has potential to be raised fast. Especially, everyone has accepted that a higher education, which focuses on technical and vocational education, has become compulsory.

Increased numbers of universities, increased students placements and new departments and programmes established in the light of the needs analysis have made higher education a centre of attraction for young people. There is a focus on technology based education to meet such a demand in the best way. To meet needs in terms of intermediate staff, numbers of vocational high-school have been increased.

A transition process from traditional education mentality to mentality based on world facts has been started as a result of schools which are equipped with technical infrastructure and technology opportunities in all levels e.g. primary to higher education (Özdaş, 1997). There is more research and application based activities in new education models and student-centred education mentality is practised. Students graduate from schools after they gain qualities, which are requirements of their departments and potential professions, via fulfilling their tasks such as research activities, performance projects and they become successful.

Homework, which is important for education, can be defined as out-of-school activities assigned by teachers. These assignments are given to students as it is aimed that students should improve their knowledge and abilities they gain inside of schools. While students do their homework, they gain new experiences with new materials and knowledge. Students realize and improve their ability, interest and knowledge, make up their deficiencies, gain habit to study lesson regularly, drift away from memorization and establish a studying method based on research, increase their creativity via these experiences. Therefore, homework has short-term benefits such as getting high mark and long-term benefits such as supporting aspects to become a successful, responsible, creative, researcher person.

In this regard, homework can be classified under three topics:

- *Application homework*, it aims that students shall apply their new knowledge, abilities, repeat and revise them. It is like practice homework that is about subjects of the concerned day.
- *Preparatory homework*, it aims to prepare students for next subjects in a better way and provide basic knowledge about required subjects. It is like preparation for next day.
- *Homework to improve*, it is generally long time projects that are implemented in parallel with class activities. It aims to improve students' personal knowledge and abilities. It is like a research about a particular subject or writing summary of a book (Aksüt,2005).

One of the most used sources in preparing projects and doing homework is access to internet. Internet, which is preferred by students at the highest level as it contains more information that a student want and is easy to use, is a unique education material but it may cause negative effects because of its risks.

Today when we think technology in terms of information source, we remember internet first and then TV and other mass media tools such as digital databases and other technology based materials (Gentry,1995). According to a research; information source and benefiting from internet during preparing project and doing homework period is high among students of faculty of education. 70 % of student state that they benefit from internet while they do their homework because it saves time. In addition students want to benefit also from academicians' personal webpage and universities' e-libraries. (Aksüt,2005)

Method

Aim of this research is to determine associate degree students' level of using technology while they prepare their project and do their homework and their attitudes towards technology. This study is important regarding the following aspects; associate degree students should be able to question education system that they attend and verify outputs of education under existing conditions. Screening method has been used in the research. There are 20 questions in the questionnaire. Subject of the questionnaire is students' level of using technology, their opinions and preferences about technology.

Results have been evaluated with five point likert scale. First the questionnaire had been applied to a small group, which was determined coincidentally among main group and questions were discussed with these students. In addition to that there were meetings with administrators and academicians of the Ağrı İbrahim Çeçen University, where research has been conducted. Sample of the research is composed of 153 students that chosen randomly from four programmes of Ağrı Vocational High-school.

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Accounting and Tax Applications</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Machinery</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Electricity</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>Furniture and Decoration</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>TOPTAL</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>153</i>

Table 1. Gender of participants

Findings

As student activities are important in modern education mentality, associate degree students are given to performance projects and this mentality contributes to intensify their knowledge via leading them to project based studies and keep their high readiness level active during term. Therefore, students think that using technology is compulsory in order to meet these requirements.

According to research findings; students use technological tools such as internet, TV and etc... at a high level while they prepare their project and do their homework (4, 45). Most of the students think that preparing project or doing homework in an internet house saves time (4,02). Students state that using technology makes them successful (3,97), they are able to use computer programmes that are necessary to prepare their projects and do their homework (3,86). Students group which took part in the research state that they want to benefit from schools and academicians' website as it is important for their success (3,83). Majority of the students defends that information, which they get from internet is enough for their projects and homework (3,41).

Similarly majority of the students states that they use memory stick (3,35), access to e-book while they prepare their projects and do their homework (3,03). Associate degree students, which think that homework should be assigned in the form of performance projects (2,82), do not have clear opinions whether physical environment is suitable or not to do homework in internet houses (2,69).

According to the research there are students that use town library (1,68) and school's library (1,19) and a significant amount of students ask help from staff in internet house (1,86) or pay money to staff for their homework, projects (1,98).

Some students state that they use on-line libraries (1,45) and some other students defend books and sources, which they currently have are enough (1,83). A small group of students (1,26) state that they benefit from academicians' books.

<i>OPTIONS</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>Average</i>
I use technological facilities such as internet and TV while I prepare project or do homework	2	4,45
Preparing project or doing homework in internet house saves time	1	4,02
Using technology to prepare projects or do homework contribute to my success	12	3,97
I am able to use computer programmes while I prepare projects or do homework	7	3,86
School's website and academicians' webpage provides easiness to us	3	3,83
Content of projects or homework based on internet, TV and other communication tools is satisfactory	4	3,41
I know and use memory stick	10	3,35
I access to e-book rather than buy books that might be necessary for homework and projects	6	3,03
Homework and projects should be assigned in the form of performance project	17	2,82
Physical environment in internet house is suitable to prepare projects or do homework	5	2,69
Laboratory and other technological sources in the school are satisfactory to prepare projects or do homework	18	2,60
Technological facilities are used in a satisfactory level in the classes	8	2,43
I pay money to staff in internet house for my projects or homework	16	1,98
I ask help from staff in internet house for my projects or homework	9	1,86
Books and other sources that I have are enough to prepare projects or do homework	15	1,83
I often go to town library to do homework	14	1,68
I think academicians use computer in a satisfactory level	19	1,52
I can use database, on-line libraries	11	1,45
I benefit from academicians' books while I prepare projects or do homework	20	1,26
I benefit from school's library to prepare project or do homework	13	1,19

Table 2. Research Questionnaire's List According to Order of Average

In conclusion, it is understood that associate degree students' inclination to use technology is on increase gradually; they are open to using technology and want regulations that shall support using technology in the school. It is also understood that they complain about lack of sources such as library, database that they need to prepare project or do homework.

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